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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, thank You for the joy You give us when we follow Your guidance. Lord, You have provided us with Your Holy Word as a light to illuminate life's journey, and Your precepts inspire us with confidence and delight.

As our lawmakers daily receive Your wisdom from devotional time with You, permit Your peace that exceeds anything we can understand to guard their hearts, even during turbulent seasons. Lord, use our Senators for Your glory, empowering them to stay productive throughout the days of their lives.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 11, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to legislative session.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Andrea Joan Palm, of Wisconsin, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

### BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, "infrastructure," "court packing," "crisis," "Jim Crow," "bipartisan"—all words that we recognize, all words with fixed, long-established meanings, and all words whose meanings are currently being twisted unrecognizably.

In the brave new world of the Biden administration, the Democratic Congress, the plain meaning of language is no longer so plain.

Take the term "infrastructure." Ask anybody what they think of when they think of infrastructure, and I can guarantee what they will tell you: roads, bridges, waterways, maybe airports. I can also tell you what they won't think of: Medicaid expansion, support for Big Labor, free community college.

Why? Because none of those things has ever been part of the definition of "infrastructure," until now. Now Democrats are claiming that infrastructure is pretty much whatever they want it to be.

One Democratic Senator tweeted:

Paid leave is infrastructure. Childcare is infrastructure. Caregiving is infrastructure.

Well, actually, no, they are not. Those are policy proposals—proposals that could be discussed, but they are not infrastructure. Saying something is infrastructure doesn't make it so.

And, unfortunately, Democrats' redefinition of infrastructure, as Orwellian as it is, is actually less alarming than some of Democrats' other attempts at linguistic redefinition.

Take court packing. Everyone who has ever sat through an American history class knows exactly what court packing refers to—expanding the number of Justices on the Supreme Court so that you can get the Supreme Court decisions that you want.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt proposed it in the 1930s, and it was defeated by a bipartisan majority of Senators. And most thought the idea had been consigned to the ash heap of history, until Democrats resurrected it during the Trump administration.

Upset by the Court's current makeup and worried that the Court might not rubberstamp Democratic policies, a growing number of Democrats are getting behind the idea of court packing.

But, of course, they are eager to escape the negative connotations of the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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